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ASSIGNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES
OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR

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The General Meeting of the Academy of Sciences USSR took place on 22-26 October 1953.

The President of the Academy, Academician A. N. Nesmeyanov, in his speech opening the meeting, outlined the role of Soviet scientists in the solution of problems of the greatest scientific significance.

Academician N. V. Tsitsin then gave a speech on the aims of biological science in the light of the decisions of the September Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, which was followed by a speech by Academician A. L. Kursanov, "The Meaning of Isotopes and Other Latest Research Methods in Biology for the Solution of Agricultural Problems."

The morning session on 23 October was devoted to the elections of Academicians and to the confirmation of the Corresponding Members selected by the departments.

Opening the sessions, the President of the Academy indicated that there were sufficient Active Members of the Academy present to carry out elections competently in accordance with Article 23 of the Statutes of the Academy.

The President read the text of Article 19 of the Statutes on the form of elections and stated that all the departments had selected candidates for Academician after a detailed discussion of each candidate and a secret ballot. "We have to elect 51 Academicians," said the President, "15 in the Department of Physicomathematical Sciences, 5 in Chemical Sciences, 8 in Geologicogeographical Sciences, 4 in Biological Sciences, 13 in Technical Sciences, 4 in Historical Sciences, and 2 in Economic, Philosophical, and Legal Sciences."

The presidents of the evaluation committees of these departments -- Academicians M. A. Lavrent'yev, M. M. Dubinin, A. A. Grigor'yev, A. I. Oparin, S. A. Khristianovich, V. P. Volgin, and G. F. Aleksandrov -- reported to the General Meeting on the distribution of vacancies, named the candidates for active membership put forward by their departments, and gave a short biographic outline of each candidate (written detailed biographies had been distributed to the members of the meeting in advance).

The meeting chose as a vote-counting commission Academicians S. L. Sobolev, S. I. Vol'fkovich, A. Ye. Korneychuk, K. I. Satpayev, and V. I. Smirnov, who handed out the election cards to the electors. When the cards had been completed, they were placed in a sealed urn.

The meeting then came to the confirmation of Corresponding Members of the Academy chosen by the departments after secret ballot. The President recalled Article 22 of the Statutes, in which it is decreed that the confirmation of Corresponding Members is by a simple majority vote.

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The presidents of the evaluation committees of all departments of the Academy -- Academicians M. A. Lavrent'yev, M. M. Dubinin, A. A. Grigor'yev, A. I. Oparin, S. A. Khristianovich, V. P. Volgin, G. F. Aleksandrov, and V. V. Vinogradov -- reported on the number of existing vacancies and named the elected Corresponding Members by their specialities.

The meeting confirmed as Corresponding Members of the Academy all 148 scientists elected by the departments.

The president of the vote-counting commission, Academician S. L. Sobolev, announced the results of the secret ballot at the evening session on 23 October. He stated that all the candidates nominated by the departments had received more than the necessary two thirds of the votes and, in accordance with the Statutes, had been elected Academicians.

The President of the Academy of Sciences congratulated the newly elected Academicians and Corresponding Members, calling on them to take an active part in the activities of the Academy, and expressing his certainty that they would give new successes to Soviet science in all fields of learning by their own energetic, creative work.

Academician A. I. Oparin then gave a report, "The Problem of the Origin of Life in the Light of the Achievements of Contemporary Natural Science."

This was followed by a speech by Academician B. A. Ambartsunyan.

The final session took place on 26 October, with the newly elected Academicians taking part. It was concerned with organizational questions -- the selection of the Presidium, the confirmation of Academician-Secretaries chosen by the departments, the confirmation of directors of a series of institutes, and the confirmation of decisions taken by the Presidium and subject to confirmation by the General Meeting.

The General Meeting received a suggestion to choose 16 men as the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, composed of the following: the President, two vice-presidents, four members of the Presidium, the Chief Scientific Secretary, and eight Academician-Secretaries of the departments.

In accordance with Article 38 of the Statutes of the Academy, A. N. Nesmeyanov stated, the vice-presidents are elected for a period of 5 years. Academicians I. P. Bardin and V. P. Volgin were elected vice-presidents in June 1947 and therefore their term in office was ended.

The President announced that Academician V. P. Volgin had expressed to the Presidium the request to be released from his duties as vice-president because of his health. The President said, "It seems to me that we must satisfy the desire of Academician Volgin. I know that I shall be expressing the wishes of the General Meeting if I thank Vyacheslav Petrovich Volgin for his many years of organizational activity on the Presidium, and for his work as vice-president of the Academy of Sciences USSR."

The meeting warmly congratulated Academician Volgin and listened with great attention to his speech, in which he expressed gratitude for the high valuation of his services in the Presidium of the Academy.

President Nesmeyanov put forward the names of I. P. Bardin and K. V. Ostrovityanov as candidates for vice-president. The General Meeting resolved to include the candidatures on the secret ballots.

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Academics I. V. Kurchatov, T. D. Lyenko, V. S. Nemchinov, and I. G. Petrovskiy were put forward as candidates for members of the Presidium.

The President further suggested the confirmation of Academician-Secretaries chosen by the departments. The names of following candidates were put on the secret ballots:

Academician M. V. Keldysh (Academician-Secretary, Department of Physico-mathematical Sciences)

Academician M. M. Dubinin (Academician-Secretary, Department of Chemical Sciences)

Academician D. I. Shcherbakov (Academician-Secretary, Department of Geologicogeographical Sciences)

Academician A. I. Oparin (Academician-Secretary, Department of Biological Sciences)

Academician S. A. Khristianovich (Academician-Secretary, Department of Technical Sciences)

Academician M. N. Tikhomirov (Academician-Secretary, Department of Historical Sciences)

Academician G. F. Aleksandrov (Academician-Secretary, Department of Economic, Philosophical, and Legal Sciences)

Academician V. V. Vinogradov (Academician-Secretary, Department of Literature and Language)

As a result of the secret ballot, all the candidates put forward were elected to form the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR. In accordance with the report of the Chief Scientific Secretary of the Presidium of the Academy, the General Meeting then confirmed the following as directors of the institutes named:

Institute of Physical Problems imeni S. I. Vavilov -- Academician A. P. Aleksandrov

Institute of Precision Mechanics and Calculating Techniques -- Academician S. A. Lebedev

Institute of Theoretical Astronomy -- M. F. Subbotin, Corresponding Member of the Academy

Institute of the Chemistry of Silicates -- N. A. Toropov, Doctor of Technical Sciences

Institute of Geological Sciences -- M. I. Varentsov, Corresponding Member of the Academy

Institute of Oceanology -- V. G. Kort, Doctor of Geographical Sciences

Soil Institute imeni V. V. Dokuchayev -- Academician I. V. Tyurin

Institute of Mechanics -- A. A. Il'yushin, Corresponding Member of the Academy

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Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) -- N. F. Bel'chikov, Corresponding Member of the Academy.

Academician V. S. Nemchinov was confirmed as president of the Council for the Study of Productive Forces, Academy of Sciences USSR. The following were confirmed as members of the council: Academicians I. P. Bardin, S. I. Vol'fkovich, I. P. Gerasimov, B. A. Kazanskiy, S. Ya. Zhuk, V. S. Nemchinov, S. G. Strumilin, I. V. Tyurin, L. D. Shevyakov, and D. I. Shcherbakov; the Minister of Geology and the Conservation of Mineral Resources, P. Ya. Antropov; Corresponding Members of the Academy M. I. Agoshkov, A. A. Amiraslanov, M. I. Varentsov, V. I. Veyts, A. V. Gorinov, V. V. Zvonkov, G. N. Kamenskiy, V. A. Kovda, Ye. M. Lavrenko, O. D. Levitskiy, N. V. Mel'nikov, L. V. Pustovalov, and A. B. Chernyshev; Professors V. F. Vasyutin and I. M. Razumov; and Candidate of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences, V. V. Obruchev.

The General Meeting confirmed the following decisions made earlier by the Presidium:

The appointment of V. T. Bykov, Doctor of Chemical Sciences, as President of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Affiliate imeni V. L. Komarov; and V. P. Dadykin, Doctor of Biological Sciences, as president of the Presidium of the Yakutsk Affiliate.

The reorganization of the Department of History and Philosophy into the Department of Historical Sciences, and the Department of Economics and Law into the Department of Economic, Philosophical, and Legal Sciences.

The reorganization of the Institute of the History of Natural Sciences into the Institute of the History of Natural Sciences and Engineering.

The inclusion of the Section for the Scientific Development of Problems of Electric Welding and Electrothermy into the Institute of Metallurgy imeni A. A. Baykov.

The inclusion of the Baykal L'mnological Station into the East Siberian Affiliate.

The inclusion of the Murmansk Biological Station into the Kola Affiliate.

The reorganization of the Committee for Cooperation in the Construction of Hydroelectric Stations, Canals, and Irrigation Systems into the Sector of Water Resources and Hydraulic Engineering, and its transfer to the Council for the Study of Productive Forces.

The inclusion of the Laboratory of Peroxide Compounds into the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry imeni N. S. Kurnakov.

The transfer of the Laboratory of High-Frequency Electrothermy to the management of the Institute of Metallurgy imeni A. A. Baykov.

The taking over by the Academy of Sciences USSR of the Institute of Technical Economic Information and others.

The transfer of the following to the Ministry of Culture USSR:

All-Union Museum imeni A. S. Pushkin, the Museum-Apartment of A. S. Pushkin, the Pushkin National Park, the Museum of L. N. Tolstoy, the Homestead Museum of L. N. Tolstoy, the "Yasnaya Polyana" Homestead Museum, the Museum Room at the Lev Tolstoy station, the Museum-Apartment of N. A. Nekrasov.

After taking decisions on the organizational problems, the General Meeting of the Academy of Sciences USSR concluded its work.

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